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FATHER AND SON SENTENCED FOR COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Orlando, Florida - U.S. District Judge Gregory A. Presnell, today sentenced Charles Edward Brooks, age 73, of Melbourne, Florida to 10 years' imprisonment and also sentenced Brooks's son, Eddie Jerald Brooks, age 48, of Pompano Beach, Florida, to 12 years', seven months' imprisonment following their respective convictions for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of cocaine base. The pair was found guilty on February 1, 2007, following a four-day jury trial.

A third defendant in the case, Jasper Riles, age 66, of Ft. Lauderdale, earlier pled guilty to a single charge of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base. Riles cooperated with the government and testified as a government witness at the trial of Charles and Eddie Brooks. Judge Presnell sentenced Riles to two years' probation, with a special condition that he spend four months in community confinement, also known as a "half-way house."

According to court documents and testimony at trial, Charles and Eddie Brooks sold "crack" cocaine from their house at 1085 Mathers Street, to a variety of neighborhood customers. From November 2005 through February 2006, the Melbourne Police Department and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) monitored a

series of purchases of "crack" cocaine and handguns from the home. The jury determined that the pair was responsible for more than fifty grams of "crack" cocaine, thereby exposing them to a minimum mandatory sentence of ten years. The jury also returned a special verdict finding that the property located at 1085 Mathers Street, in Melbourne, should be forfeited to the United States, and Judge Presnell, in announcing sentence, added that the property would be forfeited to the United States.

The case was investigated by the Melbourne Police Department and the DEA. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bruce S. Ambrose.